IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus which can communicate through a network with each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to said network, comprising:

display means for displaying an icon indicative of each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen;

said virtual system display screen graphically displaying connecting states of said plurality of information processing apparatuses and peripherals locally connected to each of said information processing apparatuses;

obtaining means for obtaining information of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus from each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses;

first control means for displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus corresponding to the icon as a target of a user action in response to said user action for the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen on the basis of the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

second control means for ~~calculating display~~ changing positions of the icons which have already been displayed on said virtual system display screen on the basis of a display space of the icon of the peripheral which is newly displayed on said virtual system display screen by said first control means.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said user action includes a first user action for selecting the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen by a pointing device.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein said user action includes a second user action for selecting the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen by a pointing device and selecting the icon of the peripheral locally connected to ~~said~~ a different information processing apparatus ~~different from the information processing apparatus corresponding to said icon~~.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first control means further comprises discriminating means for discriminating whether the icon of the peripheral locally connected to said information processing apparatus selected by said second user action is displayed on said virtual system display screen or not on the basis of attributes of the peripheral corresponding to the icon selected by said second user action,

and only the icon of the peripheral in which a discrimination result by said discriminating means indicates an affirmative decision is displayed.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said discriminating means outputs an affirmative decision with respect to the peripheral which can operate in an interlocking relational manner with the peripheral corresponding to the icon selected by said second user action.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said discriminating means executes the discrimination on the basis of a reference such that the peripheral having an image input function and the peripheral having an image transmitting function can operate in an interlocking relational manner.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said discriminating means executes the discrimination on the basis of a reference such that the peripheral having an image input function and the peripheral having an image printing function can operate in an interlocking relational manner.

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing method in an information processing apparatus which can communicate through a network with each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to said network, comprising:

a display step of displaying an icon indicative of each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen;

said virtual system display screen graphically displaying connecting states of said plurality of information processing apparatuses and peripherals locally connected to each of said information processing apparatuses;

an obtaining step of obtaining information of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus from each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses;

a first control step of displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus corresponding to the icon as a target

of a user action in response to said user action for the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen on the basis of the information obtained by said obtaining step; and

a second control step of ~~calculating display~~ changing positions of the icons which have already been displayed on said virtual system display screen on the basis of a display space of the icon of the peripheral which is newly displayed on said virtual system display screen by said first control step.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said user action includes a first user action for selecting the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen by a pointing device.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[8]] 9, wherein said user action includes a second user action for selecting the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen by a pointing device and selecting the icon of the peripheral locally connected to ~~said~~ a different information processing apparatus ~~different from the information processing apparatus corresponding to said icon~~.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said first control step further comprises a discriminating step of discriminating whether the icon of the peripheral locally connected to said information processing apparatus selected by said second user action is displayed on said virtual system display screen or not on the basis of attributes of the peripheral corresponding to the icon selected by said second user action,

and only the icon of the peripheral in which a discrimination result by said discriminating step indicates an affirmative decision is displayed.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein in said discriminating step, an affirmative decision is outputted with respect to the peripheral which can operate in an interlocking relational manner with the peripheral corresponding to the icon selected by said second user action.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein in said discriminating step, the discrimination is executed on the basis of a reference such that the peripheral having an image input function and the peripheral having an image transmitting function can operate in an interlocking relational manner.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein in said discriminating step, the discrimination is executed on the basis of a reference such that the peripheral having an image input function and the peripheral having an image printing function can operate in an interlocking relational manner.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory which stores a computer program which is executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus which can communicate through a network with each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to said network, wherein said computer program comprises:

a display step of displaying an icon indicative of each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen;

said virtual system display screen graphically displaying connecting states of said plurality of information processing apparatuses and peripherals locally connected to each of said information processing apparatuses;

an obtaining step of obtaining information of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus from each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses;

a first control step of displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus corresponding to the icon as a target of a user action in response to said user action for the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen on the basis of the information obtained by said obtaining step; and

a second control step of ~~calculating display~~ changing positions of the icons which have already been displayed on said virtual system display screen on the basis of a display space of the icon of the peripheral which is newly displayed on said virtual system display screen by said first control step.

Claims 16-21. (Cancelled).

22. (New) An information processing apparatus which can communicate through a network with each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to said network, comprising:

display means for displaying an icon indicative of each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen;

said virtual system display screen graphically displaying connecting states of said plurality of information processing apparatuses and peripherals locally connected to each of said information processing apparatuses;

obtaining means for obtaining information of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus from each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses;

first control means for displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus corresponding to the icon as a target of a user action in response to said user action for the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen on the basis of the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

second control means for controlling said display means to display each of the icons displayed by said the first control means such that a user may recognize whether a driver for the peripheral corresponding to the icon has been installed to make the peripheral available.

23. (New) A data processing method in an information processing apparatus which can communicate through a network with each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to said network, comprising:

a display step of displaying an icon indicative of each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen;

said virtual system display screen graphically displaying connecting states of said plurality of information processing apparatuses and peripherals locally connected to each of said information processing apparatuses;

an obtaining step of obtaining information of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus from each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses;

a first control step of displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus corresponding to the icon as a target of a user action in response to said user action for the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen on the basis of the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

a second control step of controlling said display means to display each of the icons displayed by said the first control means such that a user may recognize whether a driver for the peripheral corresponding to the icon has been installed to make the peripheral available.

24. (New) A computer-readable memory which stores a computer program which is executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus which can communicate through a network with each of a plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to said network, wherein said computer program comprises:

a display step of displaying an icon indicative of each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses onto a virtual system display screen;

said virtual system display screen graphically displaying connecting states of said plurality of information processing apparatuses and peripherals locally connected to each of said information processing apparatuses;

an obtaining step of obtaining information of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus from each of said plurality of information processing apparatuses;

a first control step of displaying icons indicative of the peripherals locally connected to said information processing apparatus corresponding to the icon as a target of a user action in response to said user action for the icon of the information processing apparatus on said virtual system display screen on the basis of the information obtained by said obtaining means; and

a second control step of controlling said display means to display each of the icons displayed by said the first control means such that a user may recognize whether a driver for the peripheral corresponding to the icon has been installed to make the peripheral available.